

[Bringing back life to a landmark](#)

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The following account was prepared by Elaine Dalrymple of the Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District.

—WATKINS GLEN, Jan. 3, 2013 — The Schuyler County 4-H Youth Fair site, located on Meads Hill Road in the Town of Dix, is being restored by the Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC) using grant funds obtained by the Soil and Water District. Year-round water, cold storage, office space for the USC Wetland Trust, and overall repair to a multitude of buildings has been completed.

The site is renamed the Lee Harlan Soil and Water Conservation Center to recognize the generosity of the Lee and Shirley Harlan family. The Harlans were the original donors of the land to Cornell Cooperative Extension for use in youth outdoor education. Lee Harlan was a nearby farmer, and the family was active in the 4-H program.

The Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District has assumed ownership of the property and is working jointly in the management of this site with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition so it can be used as a conservation and wetland program education and development center. The Wetland Trust is a program of the USC, and its mission is to restore, conserve, and protect wetland biota, functions and value.

This area has already seen a multitude of activity — the Soil and Water District's annual tree and shrub sale (the Green Arbor Program); several agricultural plastic, pesticide container collection programs; soil pit examination and training for local high school students participating in the Envirothon program; and the overwintering and staging area for thousands of wetland plants that will be utilized to restore wetland habitat throughout our region. The Soil and Water District looks forward to the vast possibilities of hands-on educational events at the site, including livestock activities.

The mission of the Soil and Water District is to conserve and enhance the natural resources of Schuyler County through education, planning and implementation. The USC is a coalition of 19 Soil and Water Districts in the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay. The refurbished site improves the efficiency, coordination and education potential of these agencies and will include continued cooperation with Extension.

For more information about conservation programs, call SWCD at 535-6878 or visit the SWCD website, www.schuylerswcd.com. The tree and shrub order forms for the 2013 Green Arbor Program are available this month on the website and at numerous locations in the county. The plant distribution will occur once again at the Lee Harlan Conservation Center. For the USC and Wetland Trust visit their website, www.u-s-c.org

Photo in text: The new sign at the Youth Fair site in the Town of Dix with refurbished buildings in the background.